

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending. Upon entry of this response, claims 1-3 and 5 will be pending, claims 1 and 2 having been amended and claim 4 canceled in this response. The amendments find support in the specification and the original claims.

Specification Amendments

The specification has been amended to replace “methacryl” with “methallyl” to correct a misinterpretation thereof made in the filed specification. The amendments find support in the specification, page 5, ll. 14-15, for example.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants confirm election of Group I, claims 1-3 and 5, for examination in this application. Applicants’ representative made the election in a telephone conversation with the Examiner on February 9, 2006. Claim 4 is canceled in this response.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 5 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that claims 2 and 5 are allowable as dependent claims in view of the amendments and arguments made regarding independent claim 1 in this response. Accordingly, claims 2 and 5 need not be rewritten in independent form.

The objected-to term “knot-like” in claim 2 has been deleted therefrom. The term has been amended for clarification to recite “knot-shaped” and added to claim 1. The amendment finds support in the specification, page 8, ll. 2-4, and Fig. 2, for example.

102(b) Rejections

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Fujiwara (USP 4,409,350). Applicants traverse the rejections.

Claim 1 as amended is directed to an artificial fiber comprising, *inter alia*, a knob-shaped unevenness on a surface of the fiber and a difference of average height between a projected area and a depressed area of 5 micrometers to 15 micrometers on the surface. This fiber provides

satisfactory numerical ranges of a reflectance to a white light and an optical diffusion coefficient, as illustrated in the Examples. See, e.g., specification, page 7, ll. 21-28, and Table 1. This is because the knot-shaped unevenness and the difference of average height between a projected area and a depressed area of 5 micrometers to 15 micrometers can lead to both a specific reflectance and an optical diffusion coefficient as claimed, which successfully enables unique gloss of appearance of artificial fiber having light diffusibility, i.e., “flickering gloss.” See, e.g., specification, page 2, ll. 19-25.

In contrast, Fujiwara discloses an acrylic fiber comprising a copolymer consisting mainly of acrylonitrile and a halogen-containing monomer, where addition of an organic tin compound and glycidyl methacrylate to the fiber results in the fiber maintaining its glossiness and transparency after dyeing. Fujiwara further discloses that the organic tin compound improves flame retardancy of the fiber. See Fujiwara, col. 1, l. 10 – col. 2, l. 4. However, Fujiwara neither teaches nor suggests an artificial fiber comprising a knob-shaped unevenness on a surface of the fiber and a difference of average height between a projected area and a depressed area of 5 micrometers to 15 micrometers on the surface, as recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

This absence of such a teaching or suggestion in Fujiwara is supported by the Fujiwara disclosure, which describes using a spinning nozzle having 300 holes, each hole having a diameter of 0.1 mm (see, e.g., Fujiwara, Example 1) and each hole having a diameter of 0.06 mm (see, e.g., Fujiwara, Example 6). This suggests that Fujiwara uses a “round nozzle” as in Comparative Example 3 of the present invention and never forms such unevenness on the surface of the fiber, as claimed in the present invention.

Therefore, claim 1 and dependent claim 3 are not believed to be anticipated by Fujiwara. Withdrawal of the rejections is therefore requested.

CONCLUSION

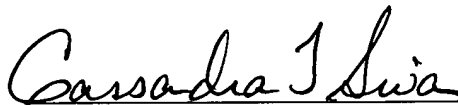
The claims are believed to be allowable.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter regarding this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cassandra T. Swain".

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